

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 have been examined and have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,597,374 to Baker et al. (“Baker”)

Claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Baker.

A. Claim 1

Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable. For example, claim 1 comprises a remote control operating unit and a control unit. The remote control operating unit inputs, from an operator, connection information and outputs the connection information. Also, the control unit recognizes a connection between information processing equipment and information reproduction equipment based on the output connection information.

The Examiner contends that codes sets 37 stored in the memory 34 shown in Fig. 2 of Baker suggest the claimed connection information, but Applicants respectfully disagree. As disclosed in the reference, the memory 34 is contained in the remote control 10 (Fig. 1), and the code sets 37 are sets of codes that are associated with various types and brands of devices to be controlled by remote control 10. (Column 3, lines 65-66; column 4, lines 16-20). For example, a first code set may control a first television (corresponding to a first brand), and a second code set may control a second television (corresponding to a second brand). (Column 1, lines 56-59). When the remote control 10 is programmed to control the first television, it generates commands based on the first code set and transmits the commands to the first television. On the other hand, when the remote control 10 is programmed to control the second television, it generates commands based on the second code set and transmits the commands to the second television.

Thus, the remote control 10 merely uses the code sets 37 to control the different types of devices 40A to 40C, and the code sets 37 do not include any information about a connection among any of the devices 40A to 40C. Accordingly, Baker does not disclose a control unit that recognizes a connection among the devices 40A to 40C based on the code sets 37. As such, the reference does not teach a control unit that recognizes a connection between (1) information processing equipment (which the Examiner alleges to correspond to one of devices 40A to 40C) and (2) information reproduction equipment (which the Examiner alleges to correspond to another one of the devices 40A to 40C) based on the connection information.

In addition, the Examiner alleges that the controller 42 corresponds to the claimed control unit, but Applicants respectfully disagree. For example, in claim 1, the control unit recognizes the connection between the information processing equipment and the information reproduction equipment based on the connection information output from the remote control operating unit. However, as shown in Fig. 2, the controller 42 is part of an infrared transmitter 38 within the remote control 10 that outputs signals from the remote control 10. (Column 4, lines 25-35). Since the controller 42 is part of the remote control 10, it cannot recognize the connection between equipment based on information output from the remote control 10.

In light of the discussion above, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Baker.

B. Claims 2-6

Since claims 2-6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, the rejection of the claims is moot.

C. Claims 7 and 8

Since claims 7 and 8 depend upon claim 1, Applicants submit that they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

D. Claim 9

Claim 9 states that an input device inputs connection information between the information processing equipment and the information reproduction equipment. Since the code sets 37 do not relate to the information about the connection between various equipment, Applicants submit that claim 9 is patentable for reasons that are similar to the reasons presented above.

Also, Applicants submit that Baker does not suggest a selection device that selects designation information, a searching device that searches the connection information corresponding to the selected designation information from the storage device, and an output device for outputting the connection information specified by the searching device, as claimed in claim 9.

E. Claim 10

Since claim 10 contains features that are analogous to the features discussed above in conjunction with claim 1, Applicants submit that claim 10 is patentable for similar reasons.

II. Newly added claims

Applicants have added new claims 11-22. Since claims 11 and 18 contains features that are analogous to the features discussed above in conjunction with claim 1, Applicants submit that these claims are patentable for analogous reasons. Also, since claims 12-17 and 19-22 depend

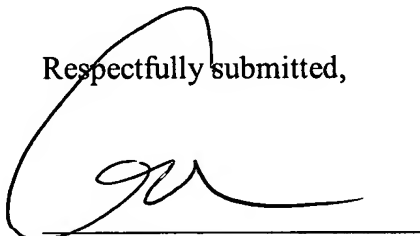
upon claim 1, 11, or 18, Applicants submit that they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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